

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00051 251742Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 L-03 ARAE-00 /016 W
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R 242300Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5430

UNCLAS BELIZE 0051

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN BH
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY: VALIDITY OF COMMON LAW MARRIAGE

REF: STATE 009792

1. THIS IS IN REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN HAMMERSCHMIDT'S
INQUIRY ON BEHALF OF A CONSTITUENT CONCERNING THE
VALIDITY OF COMMON LAW MARRIAGES IN BELIZE.

2. BELIZEAN AUTHORITIES REPORT THAT COMMON-LAW
MARRIAGES ARE NOT, REPEAT NOT, RECOGNIZED IN BELIZE.
THE GENERAL REGISTRY STATES: "THE MARRIAGE ORDINANCE,
CHAPTER 184 OF THE LAWS OF BELIZE, REVISED EDITION,
1958, PRESCRIBES, INTER ALIA, THE TIMES, PLACES AND
MANNER IN WHICH MARRIAGES SHOULD BE PERFORMED AS WELL
AS THE PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE SUCH MARRIAGES.
THE ARRANGEMENT COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS A COMMON-LAW
MARRIAGE, I.E., WHERE A MAN AND A WOMAN CONSENT TO
LIVE TOGETHER WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF THE PROVISIONS
OF THE ABOVEMENTIONED ORDINANCE, IS NOT RECOGNIZED
AS A MARRIAGE IN LAW. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IS
NOTHING MORE THAN A CONSENSUAL RELATIONSHIP AND
DOES NOT TAKE ON LEGAL RECOGNITION AS A MARRIAGE
EVEN IF THE PARTIES HAVE LIVED TOGETHER FOR A
LONG PERIOD OF TIME."

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3. CONGEN WILL ATTEMPT TO PROCURE COPY OF BELIZE
CONSTITUTION AND MARRIAGE ORDINANCE ASAP AND
FORWARD TO CONGRESSMAN.

4. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONSTITUENT MAY WISH
TO CONTACT MR. E. JOHNSON, REGISTRAR GENERAL, BELIZE
CITY, BELIZE.

GAWF

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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